

Women of Change

LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION

First Female Reporters of the LCA



ISABELLE DOLORES WEDEMEYER

Isabelle Dolores Wedemeyer, was one of the first women to be admitted to the Legislative Correspondents Association when the organization began admitting women in 1967. She was a reporter for The Albany Knickerbocker News.



MARY T. BATES

Marie T. Bates, was a veteran Capitol reporter. She was also admitted to the Legislative Correspondents Association in 1967. She was a reporter for United Press International.

LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION

An Organization of News Reporters Assigned to Cover the Legislature, the Governor and Activities of the State Government

The Legislative Correspondents' Association is an organization of news reporters assigned by newspapers and news agencies to cover the proceedings of the Legislature and other activities of the State Government at Albany. In its present form it has been in existence for 64 years. Predecessor organizations, differing somewhat in form and eligibility requirements, date back almost to the start of the State government itself.



William M. Ringle
President
Gannett News Service

ested in promoting or influencing legislation or administrative rulings or decisions are barred.

Women are not eligible for membership in the Association but are entitled to and receive all the privileges accorded to members of the Association by the Legislature or other agencies of the State. They have the use of the press room and all other rights enjoyed by their male confreres.

Membership of Association

Present by-laws of the Legislative Correspondents' Association make membership available to any male reporter regularly assigned to cover the Legislature or State Capitol by any bona-fide newspaper or news agency provided that reporting is his principal occupation. Employees of the State or any of its agencies and employees of non-newspaper organizations interested in promoting or influencing legislation or administrative rulings or decisions are barred.

Women were not allowed membership in the LCA until 1967

Veteran Female LCA Reporters



ELSIE WOOD

Elsie Wood, also served as a longtime member of the LCA and was recognized by Governor Mario Cuomo at the time of her passing. She covered politics at the New York State Capitol for over 50 years. Between 1928 and 1956 Wood transmitted news as a telegrapher for the Postal Telegraph and Western Union and then became a member of the LCA in 1969. Governor Mario Cuomo stated, "Wood was an inspiration to all of us who work at the Capitol. She had a rare combination of strength, kindness and wisdom, and an unwavering devotion and commitment to the news business as evidenced in her work for Cuyler News service until her death at the age of 91."



ELIZABETH FLOOD MORROW

Elizabeth Flood Morrow, also served as the longest-tenured correspondent in the LCA. In 1957, she began working in the Capitol, several years before women were permitted to become members of the LCA, primarily writing for financial and trade publications.

Flood spent decades covering the New York State Legislature becoming a fixture in the Capitol covering the administrations of nine successive governors, including both Governor Mario Cuomo and his son Governor Andrew Cuomo. Flood died at the age of 83 in 2016.



First Female President of the LCA

Elizabeth A. Buechner of Gannett News Service, was named the first female Legislative Correspondents Association President in 1978.